

In conclusion may I propose a toast to you, Mr. President, to Mrs. Bush, and to the people of the United States of America.

[At this point, the President and Prince Charles offered a toast.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:55 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Reduce Federal Spending

November 3, 2005

Today the Senate took an important step forward in cutting the deficit. I commend Senate leadership and the other Senators who supported this spending reduction legislation, and I congratulate Senator Gregg on its successful passage. Congress needs to send me a spending reduction package this year to keep us on track to cutting the deficit in half by 2009.

Statement on Senate Action on Energy Legislation

November 3, 2005

Increasing our domestic energy supply will help lower gasoline prices and utility bills. We can and should produce more crude oil here at home in environmentally responsible ways. The most promising site for oil in America is a 2,000 acre site in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and thanks to technology, we can reach this energy with little impact on the land or wildlife. I applaud the Senate for passing legislation to improve our energy situation with this commonsense approach.

Proclamation 7958—National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2005

November 3, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the strength of family members, doctors, nurses, volunteers, and others who provide care for those living with this devastating disease. During this month, we also reaffirm our commitment to victims of this disease. We hope to enhance the quality of life for Alzheimer's patients and improve prevention and treatment.

Approximately 4.5 million Americans are affected by Alzheimer's disease. The disease gradually destroys parts of the brain that control memory, learning, communication, and reason. As it progresses, individuals may also experience changes in behavior and personality, leading to severely impaired cognitive abilities and the need for full-time care and assistance. Age remains the greatest risk factor—the National Institute on Aging estimates that the percentage of people who develop Alzheimer's disease doubles for each 5-year age group beyond 65. Alzheimer's affects nearly half of those over 85.

While there is no known cure or certain treatment, researchers are learning more about what causes this tragic disease and how to control its symptoms. My Administration remains committed to funding medical research programs to help prevent, treat, and find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. The National Institute on Aging has begun new initiatives to improve development and testing of medicines that may slow progression of the disease. The Department of Veterans Affairs is supporting research through its Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers, and the Administration on Aging is working to improve home and community-based services for Alzheimer's patients. By working together, we can learn more about treatment options and bring greater comfort to those afflicted with this disease.